

It has come to my attention that the governor is considering cutting a significant amount of funding for Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC). I have been an APRN intern with CMHC Acute services for over five months. While working with this team, I have witnessed many lives being influenced in positive ways. One of my clients was seen here till she was stabilized on medication after a psychiatric hospitalization. She is now working on reentering the work force using another of CMHC's services. If my client had not received the services provided by CMHC, she would likely have discontinued her medications and ended up back in the emergency room.

CMHC provides invaluable services for a very marginalized population. It provides ongoing care for individuals which helps avoid high cost emergency treatment. The CMHC budget has already undergone significant cuts, and many individuals who need help are falling through the cracks left by earlier cuts.

The mentally ill can be found in all communities. The treatment this marginalized population receives demonstrated a community's character and compassion. A community has a responsibility to care for those whose capacity to care for themselves is compromised. Mental health care is not an area where it is appropriate to cut funding. These people must be treated with compassion. I would ask that the compassionate choice be made, a choice to work to protect the funding CMHC receives.

Sincerely,

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